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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D.,D.P.H.(Vict), M.B.,B.S.(Lond)
Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer,
Superintendent School Medical Officer, Medical Supt.,
of Corporation Hospitals, etc.....

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Library Street,
W I G A N.

October, 1941.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Wigan.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and on the work of the Health Department for the year 1940.

The report is late this year owing to the fact that the Ministry of Health statistics were received only a short time ago; and also that the Department has been overwhelmed with extra work in connection with organisation and maintenance of the Emergency Casualty Services.

In order to save paper and expense, the report has been much curtailed, and typed instead of printed.

The birth rate is slightly higher than in 1939 being 16.62 against 16.41; it is however, considerably higher than the average for the whole country.

The general death rate of 15.81 is higher than last year's rate of 12.99.

Infant Mortality is 74 which is higher than the average for the country, but is the third lowest ever recorded in Wigan.

Maternal Mortality is 4.47, which is slightly higher than the average for the last 5 years (see note on page 3).

The death rate from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis is .80 per thousand of the population, a slight fall on the figure for 1939 which was .85.

The Municipal Midwifery service is working satisfactorily and the average number of cases conducted by each midwife is 79. They are expected to deal with approximately 80 cases each per year.

Diphtheria was again prevalent in the borough and 235 cases were notified; in 1939, 302 notifications were received. Many efforts have been made to encourage parents to have their children inoculated against the disease, but the response has been very disappointing. During the year 1940, 61 children were inoculated, making a total of 2118 since the scheme was inaugurated.

It is again my privilege to record my thanks to all the members of my staff both in the Health Department, School Medical Service, and Hospitals for their loyalty and excellent work. It is opportune to stress at this time how all members of the staff have shouldered the heavy extra burden of work in connection with the emergency casualty services. They have given up much of their off duty time, and holidays have been radically curtailed.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee (Mr. Alderman T. Ramsden), the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Councillor Mrs. Ashurst), and also the Chairman of the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee (Mr. Councillor W. Shaw) for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I thank also the members of the Committee under whom I serve for their continued courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1939 - 1940.

	1939.	1940.
Population estimated July 1st.	82,240.	80,360.
Births - Males 687) Females 649) Total	1,356	1,336
Annual rate of births per 1,000 on Registrar General's estimated population..	16.41	16.62
Ditto for England and Wales.	15.00	14.60
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns....	14.80	16.00
Illegitimate births number 43 or .53 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of..	2.58	3.29
Deaths - Males 662) Females 609) Total	1,069	1,271
Corrected Death-rate, on Registrar General's estimated population.	12.99	15.81
Ditto in England and Wales..	12.10	14.30
Death-rate in 126 County Boroughs and great towns...	12.00	15.80
Excess of registered births over deaths. ...	287	65
Maternal death-rate...	6.63	4.47
Total deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	15	23
Annual rate of mortality from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	.18	.28
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	3	5
Death-rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	2.20	3.74
Infantile-rate (deaths per 1,000 births) ...	73	74
ditto for England and Wales	50	55
ditto for 126 County Boroughs and great towns.	53	61
Deaths of infants under one day old (number)..	27	15
ditto one year (legitimate).	91	97
ditto one year (illegitimate)	8	3

Births - The number of births registered during 1940 is 1336 (males 687, females 649, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 16.62. The birth rate compared with 1939 is .21 higher. The illegitimate births number 43 or 3.29 per cent.

Stillbirths - The following shows the number of stillbirths registered during the year 1940:-

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate...	39	33	72
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
	39	34	73

The Mortality Rate - The deaths for 1940 number 1,271 (males 662, Females 609), being an excess of 53 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population per annum is 15.81; in 1939, 12.99. The increase in the number of deaths as compared with 1939 was 202 - and the rate 2.82 per 1,000.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births - (Legitimate)	1,293	664	629	Birth rate per 1,000 population 16.62
(Illegitimate)	43	23	20	
	1,336	687	649	
Deaths -	1,271	662	609	Death rate per 1,000 population 15.81

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth. ... ... (from sepsis 3 (from other causes 3

Mortality of women in, or associated with child-birth per 1,000 births (live and still) :-

Puerperal Sepsis... ...	2.23		
Other Puerperal causes...	2.23		
Total Puerperal mortality		4.47	
Non Puerperal causes		-	
Total Maternal Mortality.			4.47

Of the six women who died in or in consequence of childbirth, two were septic abortions due to interference and thus entirely beyond the control of the authority. A third had pulmonary tuberculosis. One death was due to eclampsia, another to toxaemia, secondary haemorrhage and puerperal sepsis and the sixth due to shock and post partum haemorrhage (Coroner's Case).

Infant Mortality rate under 1 year of age per 1,000 births:-

Legitimate births 1,293) Death Illegitimate births 43)Death
Deaths under 1 year 97) Rate 75. Deaths under 1 year 3)Rate69.
Total births 1,336; Total deaths under 1 year 100; Death Rate 74.

INQUESTS and UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

82 inquests were held in Wigan during 1940, as against 67 in 1939, and 69 in 1938. The following verdicts were recorded:-

Accidents - Burns 9, Colliery 5, Drowned 3, Falls 13, Railway 2, Falls downstairs 7, Street 21, Others 8.
Suicides. - Hanging 2, Gas 3.
Other causes - 9.

No uncertified deaths were registered as against one in 1939, and two in 1938.

The Zymotic rate, .28, is made up as follows :-
Diphtheria - deaths 15, rate .18; Diarrhoea - deaths 5, rate .06;
Scarlet Fever- deaths 1, rate .01; Measles - deaths 2, rate .02.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Infant Mortality
1876	48.90	28.50	4.92	186
1886	38.70	22.10	3.10	174
1896	35.90	23.09	4.09	186
1906	32.60	17.61	2.61	160
1916	23.28	15.42	1.04	113
1926	20.03	13.13	.30	103
1936	17.23	12.78	.42	82
1940	16.62	15.81	.28	74

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee has kindly supplied me with the following information :-

Year Ending.	Average No. of families receiving relief.	Amount paid in relief. £
31st March 1941	899	37,212
31st March 1940	1,615	53,868

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1940.

CAUSES.	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
All Causes	M	662	60	18	13	103	191	277
	F	609	40	20	16	76	181	276
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever..... ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria...	M	6	1	1	4	-	-	-
	F	9	-	3	6	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	M	33	-	-	-	20	11	2
	F	22	-	-	1	19	2	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	M	3	-	1	-	1	1	-
	F	7	-	2	1	3	1	-
8. Syphilitic Disease.	M	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
9. Influenza....	M	32	-	-	-	8	9	15
	F	22	-	-	1	1	14	6
10. Measles.	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis..	M	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
13. M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus.	M	14	-	-	-	1	3	10
13. F. Cancer of Uterus.	F	10	-	-	-	1	7	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	M	20	-	-	-	1	10	9
	F	9	-	-	-	-	4	5
15. Cancer of Breast...	F	10	-	-	-	2	8	-
16. Cancer of all other sites. ...	M	25	-	-	-	1	6	18
	F	25	-	-	1	2	12	10
17. Diabetes.	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	4	2
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	M	54	-	-	-	-	13	41
	F	58	-	-	-	2	22	34
19. Heart Disease.	M	111	-	-	-	12	37	62
	F	102	-	-	1	7	29	65
20. Other Circulatory Diseases. ...	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	5
	F	6	-	-	-	-	1	5
21. Bronchitis...	M	101	3	1	1	11	37	48
	F	87	-	-	1	6	26	54
22. Pneumonia....	M	59	14	9	1	9	17	9
	F	49	11	12	2	5	11	8
23. Other Respiratory Diseases. ...	M	7	-	-	-	2	4	1
	F	6	-	1	-	1	1	3
24. Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum.	M	7	-	-	-	1	6	-
	F	6	-	-	-	1	3	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years). ...	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	M	4	-	-	-	1	3	-
	F	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases. ...	M	13	1	1	1	3	4	3
	F	13	-	1	-	1	5	6
28. Nephritis....	M	14	-	-	-	6	4	4
	F	14	-	-	-	3	8	3
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis.	F	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	F	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
31. Premature Birth....	M	18	18	-	-	-	-	-
	F	15	15	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	M	18	14	-	1	3	-	-
	F	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
33. Suicide.	M	3	-	-	-	2	-	1
	F	5	-	-	-	1	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents... ...	M	11	-	1	2	5	2	1
	F	3	-	-	-	2	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes.	M	27	2	1	2	9	6	7
	F	12	-	1	-	1	2	8
36. All Other Causes...	M	63	4	2	1	6	11	39
	F	91	3	-	1	11	16	60

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water are taken monthly from each of the four supplies, and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. They have been consistently reported as satisfactory. The samples are obtained from service taps in various houses situate in many parts of the town. Other samples are taken as required at various places on the Worthington and Edgewood Watersheds.

RIVERS and STREAMS.

The River Douglas and streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The Douglas Catchment Board control the river. They have carried out many improvements and also cleanse the bed of the river when required.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING and REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained. House refuse is regularly collected and disposed of by destructors and tipping. The streets are regularly scavenged.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. The number of water closets on March 31st, 1940, was 26,598; in addition there are 100 waste water closets, 64 pail closets and 40 privy middens. The pail closets and privy middens are in connection with unfit houses or isolated farms with cottages adjoining. During the year 12 waste water closets were converted to closets on the water carriage system with efficient flushing apparatus.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. F. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks.

The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops, including bake-houses, shops and offices.

Houses and premises inspected and visited re nuisances and complaints...	3018
Re-visits to nuisances...	7144
Other visits made..	1487
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)...	119
Nuisances discovered	5955
Nuisances abated...	5161
Notices issued (preliminary)...	872
" " (formal)..	520
Letters issued re nuisances	1291

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

29 smoke observations were taken in the early part of the year. In consequence of certain instructions contained in Circular 134/1940, issued by the Ministry of Home Security, it was not deemed necessary to take any further observations after June, 1940.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES-LET-IN LODGINGS.

These premises are visited regularly and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. 647 visits were made to the 9 Common Lodging Houses in the Borough with accommodation for 462 lodgers. 171 visits were made to the 6 Houses let in Lodgings.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades are carried on at seven premises. They consist of 1 fellmonger, 1 fat boiler, 3 gut scrapers, 1 gut-scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler, 27 visits were made to these premises.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

6 samples of Rag Flock obtained from manufacturers of bedding and furniture were submitted to the Public Analyst. All conformed to the Rag Flock Regulations.

CANAL BOATS - Public Health Act, 1936.

As far as can be ascertained 28 Canal Boats registered in Wigan are still in use. 72 Inspections were made during the year. 1 notice was served and complied with, and 5 letters were addressed to the owners.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 590 factories in the Borough; 303 of these have mechanical power. 43 contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year: they were as follows:- lack of cleanliness 1; inadequate ventilation 2; unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences 34; other contraventions 6. The following contraventions were remedied during the year:- Lack of cleanliness 2; inadequate ventilation 3; ineffective drainage of floors 1; insufficient sanitary conveniences 3; unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences 33; other contraventions 18; Total 60.

SHOPS ACT 1912 - 1936.

Number of shops on register 1,980. The following visits and observations were made - day 791, night 792, Sunday 102; re employment of young persons 30; Total 1695. Contraventions discovered:- not exhibiting statutory Notices within premises 9; Insufficient sanitary accommodation 3; defective sanitary accommodation 3; insufficient water supply 3; insufficient washing facilities 5; insufficient ventilation 2; insufficient facilities for maintaining reasonable temperature 3; unclean condition of premises 3; other defects 2; letters sent out 43.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

46 premises are registered for the sale of poisons. 14 visits were made to premises.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 28 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically and reports are made on their sanitary condition before the renewal of licences.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. Richardson, who devotes a portion of his time as administrative officer under the above Act, reports that during the year 205 visits were made to 72 premises found to be infested with rats or mice; 62 of these were reported to be free of these rodents. During Rat Week 525 baits were distributed to persons in occupation of infested premises.

HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18,573. The number of families was 20,190 or 1,617 more than dwellings. The population at the 1931 census was 85,357, and the estimated population on 1st July, was 80,360.

During the year 97 houses were erected by private enterprise and 30 by the local authority; total 127. Since January 1st, 1921, 2,585 houses have been erected by private enterprise and 2,570 by the local authority, total 5,155. During the period 1931-1940 approximately 1,547 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used for habitation. During the year 2,970 dwelling houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts, of these 2,635 were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925; the total inspections and re-inspections made were 10,969; 6 dwellings were found to be unfit for habitation and 2,368 were not reasonably fit for habitation. 1757 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action; 455 houses were rendered fit after the service of formal notices. 66 houses were demolished after formal action under the Housing Acts. 2 houses for which undertakings were given that they would not be used as dwellings have been demolished, and 2 other houses were demolished in consequence of informal action.

Overcrowding.

Many evacuees, and munition workers have come into the town since hostilities commenced, with the result that, at the time of writing this report practically every available dwelling is occupied and many houses by more than one family. It is impossible to give any reliable figures as regards overcrowding and only a limited number of cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are follows :-
Dairymen - premises within the Borough 95, premises outside the Borough 10, total 105. Wholesale dealers 18, producers 25.

Approximately 270 milch cows are kept in the Borough and the cowsheds are kept in a satisfactory condition. Number of visits to cowsheds 46, to dairies 94, and milkshops 117.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

Number of licences issued for the sale of pasteurised milk 39,
" " " " " " " " and production of pasteurised milk 4, number of licences issued for the sale of Accredited milk 9, number of persons licensed for the sale and production of Accredited Milk 3, number of licences issued for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk 7.

During the year 205 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies. In 8 cases letters were addressed to producers outside the Borough regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the milk.

REGISTRATION OF ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.

The Wigan Corporation Act 1933, Section 34, contained powers for the compulsory registration of Ice Cream Manufacturers, Vendors and Premises. At the end of 1940 13 premises were registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream, and in addition 37 vendors were registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK.

74 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or the methylene blue reduction test. 15 of the above samples were also submitted for the inoculation test for the presence of tubercle bacilli; in 2 cases tubercle bacilli was found.

4 samples of ice cream were also submitted for bacteriological examination.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. There are within the Borough 12 licensed slaughter houses. District Inspectors examine carcases slaughtered within their own districts.

Meat which has been slaughtered in rural districts, and which, there is reason to believe, has not been submitted for examination, is examined as far as possible immediately after its arrival in the town. Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are frequently visited. A large proportion of condemned meat is sent to a fat melters for manufacturing purposes. The remainder is dealt with at the Cleansing Depot, Frog Lane.

The firm receiving this condemned meat has signed an undertaking that it will only be used for manufacturing purposes and they regularly return special schedules of the quantities received. Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

Registration of Purveyors of Meat and Premises.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, Section 36, contained powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1940 was 134. 15 of these are at the moment temporarily closed.

Private Slaughter Houses in Use in the Area.

	On 31st December 1920.	On 31st December 1940.
Registered...	24	-
Licensed.....	1	12
	25	12

No. of visits to slaughterhouses...	2943
" " " " markets.....	311
" " " " butchers and other food shops.	942
" " certificates issued (condemned food) ...	129

Carcases examined during the year 1940.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	TOTAL.
Carcases examined	11127	2157	12476	31508	57268
Carcases totally condemned...	105	20	31	42	198
Percentage totally condemned.	.94	.92	.24	.13	.34

The following meat and offal from private slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposed, during the year 1940 :-

	Whole carcase and all offal condemned.	Part of carcase condemned.	Offal Condemned. Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.
Affected with Tuberculosis.												
Beasts	89	144	1151	3653	444	50	414	19	135	18	922	668
Calves	4	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	18	-	918	517	416	466	87	17	11	-	114	1
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affected with other disease etc.												
Beasts	16	2	1	803	5117	8	3	-	199	698	-	-
Calves	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pigs	13	1	2	499	227	142	5	1	11	1	-	2
Sheep	42	1	1	33	1044	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	198	148	2073	5507	7248	675	509	37	358	717	1036	671

Included in the above were 20 carcases dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

Summary of other foodstuffs condemned 1940.

No. of packages of wet fish...	164
No. of packages of dried fish.	138
No. of rabbits, fowl and game.	460
No. of packages of fruit and vegetables...	730
No. of packages of other canned foods. ...	2
No. of eggs.	36
Butter.	$4\frac{1}{2}$-lbs.
Slab Cake...	96-lbs.

Fried Fish Shops.

94 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which were kept under observation.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938.

220 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Samples were as follows:-

Milk 114; Butter 6; Margarine 7; Cheese 8; Tea 11; Coffee 14; Jam 13; Sausage 8; Fish and Meat Paste 10; Canned Vegetables 12; Canned Soup 1; Pepper 5; Vinegar 3; Whisky 2; Rum 2; Gin 2; Brandy 2.

4 samples of Milk and 1 of Margarine were reported as adulterated - remainder were genuine.

Report on Samples Reported to be Adulterated or Below Standard.

No. 58 Informal sample of milk deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6%, delivered to a Dairy in the town by a producer from outside the district.

No. 94 Formal sample of milk taken at the point of delivery to a Dairy in the town and following up sample No.58, found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 4%. The producer, after tendering an explanation, received a warning letter.

Nos. 133 & 134 Formal samples of milk obtained from two retailers who obtained supplies from the same producer - both samples were deficient in fat to the extent of 5%, further samples were taken 12 days later and were found to be genuine; no action was taken in these cases.

No. 213 Formal sample of margarine which contained 0.7% of water in excess of the Statutory Limit. As the excess of water was very small no action was taken.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

All premises where important articles of food are sold are kept under observation, 116 visits were paid to wholesalers and retailers premises during the year 1940.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT 1926.

5 samples of Feeding Stuffs and 9 samples of Fertilisers were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst who reported that in 3 cases there where slight excesses or deficiencies of one or other ingredient. The remaining samples were found to contain full value as declared in the statutory statement.

CHEMICAL WORK.

The Public Analyst has the honour to report as follows upon the duties of his office during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1940:-

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the above period, 220 samples of food, etc., were analysed, consisting of 114 milks, 14 coffees, 13 jams, 12 tinned vegetables, 11 teas, ten meat etc. pastes, eight each of cheese and sausage, seven margarines, six butters, five peppers, three vinegars, two each of whisky, rum, brandy and gin and one soup. Of these, five samples only, representing 2.2% of the total submitted, were reported against, viz:- four milks and one margarine.

Each of the four milks was slightly deficient in milk-fat, in amount varying from 4. to 6.6 per cent. The sample of margarine contained 0.7 per cent of water in excess of the Statutory limit of 16.0 per cent.

Fertilisers & Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

Nine samples of fertiliser and five samples of feeding-stuff were submitted during the year.

With the exception of a trifling deficiency in certain constituents of two samples, the former contained the correct proportions of ingredients set out in the warranty. Apart from one sample of Maize, which contained an excess of albuminoids, all the feeding-stuffs were in agreement with their statutory Statements.

Water Supply.

The usual systematic analytical control of the water-supply has been maintained and during the year some fifty samples have been examined and reported upon as analytically of satisfactory potable quality.

Rag Flock.

Six samples of Rag Flock were examined during the year and all readily complied with the requirements of the Rag Flock Regulations 1912.

(Signed) S.ERNEST MELLING,
Public Analyst.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

During the year 50 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for Bacteriological Examination; all were satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Vaccinations.

Vaccination of children whose births were registered during the year 1940.

Births registered 1,252; successful vaccinations 100; statutory declaration of conscientious objection 986; died unvaccinated 50; postponement by medical certificate 6; removal to other districts (vaccination officers duly apprised) 5; removal to places unknown, or cannot be traced 14; number of these births remaining on the 31st January 1941, not entered in vaccination register nor temporarily accounted for in the report book 87; Total number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations received during calendar year 207; number of statutory declarations of conscientious objections received by vaccination officers irrespective of the dates of birth of children to which they relate during the calendar year 810.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Bedding and clothing from houses in which Infectious Diseases have occurred are dealt with by a high pressure disinfector as also is similar material from houses infested with vermin. Prior to removal to Council houses furniture from houses infested with vermin is treated in the Local Authority's furniture van by means of cyanide gas by a firm of contractors who specialise in this work. Furniture owned by 51 families was treated by this process during the year. In certain instances bedding which was unfit for further use was destroyed. Supplies of vermicide are issued along with the loan of suitable sprays for the treatment of infested houses.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious diseases occur and in other cases of exceptional circumstances.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1940:-

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria...	254	1039	1293
Widal Tests for Enteric.	10	6	16
Faeces and urine for Enteric. ...	5	28	33
Cerebro Spinal Fluid...	5	-	5
Naso-pharyngeal swabs..	-	4	4
Wasserman Tests for V.D.	168	1103	1271
Kahn's Test.	6	2	8
Tests for gonococci	3	9	12
Milk (T.B.).			15
Milk (Bacteria Count)..			74
Milk for B. Coli.			74
Milk for Methylene Blue Test. ...			6
Water (Bacteriological).			50
Water (Chemical).			50
Ice Cream...			4
Food and Drugs Samples.			214
Total examinations.			3129

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1940.

Name of District - Wigan County Borough.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified. At Ages - Years.													Total Cases notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the district.													
	At all ages	under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	1 St. George.	2 Lindsay	3 St. Cath.	4 St. Patrick	5 St. Thomas	6 Poolstock	7 Victoria	8 St. Andrew	9 Swinley	10 All Saints	11 West. Pemb.	12 North Pemb.	13 Central Pemb.	14 South Pemb.
Smallpox...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	232	1	3	12	13	17	95	52	19	15	2	3	-	6	14	9	12	7	9	4	38	25	3	16	29	46	14
Enteric Fever	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Group)...	235	-	4	7	15	20	93	57	15	20	1	3	-	7	9	19	17	8	18	9	22	9	7	8	33	50	19
Pneumonia..	108	22	6	13	5	9	16	3	7	7	5	7	8	2	5	4	5	6	3	13	15	3	5	6	2	27	12
Influenzal Pneumonia...	16	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	1	2	2	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	3	3
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicken Pox	79	1	2	4	7	4	49	9	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	9	10	2	1	3	20	4	5	1	4	9	6
Erysipelas.	31	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	3	15	6	2	2	1	3	-	-	1	7	2	-	-	5	4	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	67	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	20	22	10	4	4	4	6	4	11	6	1	2	8	6	1	3	5	6	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis..	35	-	3	2	2	2	5	7	6	2	-	5	1	1	3	-	2	-	3	9	4	5	-	-	1	6	1
Measles	1224	46	108	161	170	216	488	19	8	5	2	1	-	7	33	46	42	43	57	91	348	69	24	82	93	201	88
Puerperal Pyrexia. ...	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	14	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	5	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	2	-	2	1	1	-
Dysentery..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	70	7	9	9	8	8	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	6	3	7	15	2	5	7	9	9
TOTALS.	2122	79	136	208	222	280	781	153	82	90	27	43	21	32	78	97	106	75	99	137	479	142	47	123	182	365	160

Hospital for Acute Infectious Cases, Whelley.

This Institution contains 76 beds. The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients. The majority of cases admitted are from the Borough of Wigan, but a number are sent in from surrounding districts.

	Notifications.	Removed to Whelley Hospital		Died in Whelley Hospital.	
		Patients Wigan	Out-dist.	Wigan	Out-dist.
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever..	232	10	8	-	-
Enteric Fever..	4	4	7	-	1
Diphtheria & Memb. Group...	235	235	20	15	2
Pneumonia.	108	2	1	-	1
Influenzal Pneumonia. ...	16	-	-	-	-
Chicken-pox	79	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	31	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ...	67	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	35	1	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica....	-	-	-	-	-
Measles..	1224	2	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.. ...	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	1	2	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	14	12	5	1	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	70	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2122	269	43	17	6

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet.	Enteric.	Others.	Total.
In-patients, 1st January, 1940	59	-	-	-	1
Admitted in 1940.	255	18	11	28	312
Discharged in 1940... ...	266	17	9	23	315
Died in 1940...	17	-	1	5	23
In-patients, 1st January, 1941.	31	1	1	1	34

Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations.

The Medical Officer of Health examined 210 Corporation employees during the year 1940. The number of persons examined under the Workmen's Compensation Acts is very high, owing to the establishment of a Works Department.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1940 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 11 new cases. 297 refills were carried out in these and other cases. 67 injections of Gold Compound were given.

Hospital for Treatment of Tuberculosis, Pemberton.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year :-

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough Cases ...	18	28	4	50
County Cases. ...	4	-	-	4
TOTALS.	22	28	4	54

After-Care.

During the year 1940, 120 patients received free milk from the After Care Committee. Of these 23 were new recommendations and 43 were removed from the list due to commencing work and other causes. The average number of persons in receipt of milk was 76. 23 persons received new clothing from the Committee.

County Borough of Wigan.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January 1940 to the 31st December, 1940.

Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	2	2	1	5	3	8	4	6	1	32
Pulmonary Females.	-	-	-	1	1	11	8	9	3	3	-	35
Non-Pulmonary Males.	-	-	2	5	3	2	-	-	-	1	1	14
" " Females.	2	3	2	3	5	2	-	-	-	3	1	21

Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	-	3	1	12
" Females.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Non-Pulmonary Males.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Females.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

The source or sources from which Information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained is stated below :-

Source of Information.	No. of Cases. Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns - from Local Registrars.	11	3
Transferable deaths from Registrar General.	-	1
Posthumous Notifications.	-	1
Transfers from other areas (other than Transferable deaths).... ...	2	-
Other sources, if any....	-	-

County Borough of Wigan.

Return Showing the Work of the Dispensary during the Year 1940.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary. Adults M.	Pulmonary. Adults F.	Pulmonary. Children M.	Pulmonary. Children F.	Non-Pulmonary Adults M.	Non-Pulmonary Adults F.	Non-Pulmonary Children M.	Non-Pulmonary Children F.	Total. Adults M.	Total. Adults F.	Total. Children M.	Total. Children F.	Grand Total.
A.-New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts).....													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	24	30	-	1	4	5	8	5	28	35	8	6	77
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	3	12
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	31	15	12	148
B.- Contacts examined during the year.....													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	8	12	30
C.- Cases written off the Dispensary Register as.....													
(a) Recovered....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
(b) Non-Tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as Tuberculous....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	43	25	29	196
D.- No. of persons on Dispensary Register on Dec.31st.													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	114	113	7	5	53	52	66	48	167	165	73	53	458
(b) Diagnosis not completed....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	3	12

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st.... 442
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years 10
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases lost sight of..... 10
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes)... 45
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts.....3042
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December..... 48
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners:-
   (a) Personal 55
   (b) Others. 233
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes (including personal consultation..... 89
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes.....4200

10. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum etc., examined..... 319
(b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work..... 301
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a), and A (b) above..... none
12. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st..... 127

Results of Sunlight Treatment, 1940.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Disease.	Under Treatment 1st Jan. 1940.	New Cases	Discharged. Much Improved	Improved	Stationary.	Ceased to Attend	Under Treatment 31st Dec 1940.
T.B.Glands.....	14	11	15	1	1	2	6
Lupus.....	2	2	-	-	-	1	3
Bones and Joints	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
T.B.Abdomen.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals.	16	15	17	1	1	3	9

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Venereal Diseases are treated at a Special Clinic at the Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. The figures below show the work done in 1940:

	Borough. 1939.	Borough. 1940	County. 1939.	County. 1940	Others. 1939.	Others. 1940.
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :-						
Syphilis.....	22	10	19	15	-	-
Soft Chancre.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea.....	40	57	65	73	3	-
Conditions other than Venereal....	43	31	71	61	2	1
Totals..	105	98	155	149	5	1
(b) Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area	3576	3603	6125	5040	80	7

Figures for the Past Five Years.

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
New cases.....	273	237	260	265	248
Total attendances at V.D.Clinic...	12648	11184	11610	9781	8650
In-patient days.....	290	198	134	124	53

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

	1939.	1940.
Attendances at Clinics:-		
Babies...	15903	10737
Primary visits of babies...	1265	1201
Expectant mothers weekly clinic - Central	1243	1102
Special Clinic	97	88
Pemberton Clinic	527	488
Maternal Mortality:-		
Deaths...	10	6
Rate.	6.63	4.47
Births...	1356	1336
Visits paid to expectant mothers by Health Visitors.	389	620

Dental Treatment.

The following table shows the Dental work carried out during the year 1940 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department:-

Babies Treated.	Dressing etc.	Extractions.	Fillings	Mothers Treated	Extractions	Fillings.	Scaling etc.	Dentures.
33	17	15	7	69	78	6	27	7

Children's Act.

On the 1st January 1940 there were eleven nursed out children on the register. On the 31st December 1940 there were eleven on the register. The Health Visitors who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 124 visits to premises where children were being nursed out. There were no complaints.

Ante-natal Work.

	Wigan Centre.		Pemberton Clinic.
	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic	
Number of cases attending Clinic during the year	368	69	151
Total number of attendances.	1102	88	488
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital.	-	14	-
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital.	-	13	-

The table of infant mortality for 1940 shows that over half of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life - 53 of the total 100. Over one third were under one week old - 37 of the total 100. Of the 53 deaths under one month old 30 were due to premature birth and 6 to convulsions.

Summary of the Visits Paid by the Health Visitors During the Year 1940.

No. of primary visits to births	1390
" " visits to infants under one year..	5534
" " " " " over one year and under two years.	4073
" " " " " over two and under three years ...	3376
" " " " " over three and under four years...	2848
" " " " " over four and under five years ...	2717
" " " " expectant mothers.	620
" " " " cases of abortion.	17
" " " " cases of Measles..	629
" " " " cases of Pneumonia, etc.	44
" " " re deaths under one year..	69
" " " still births..	76
" " " Midwives.	374
" " other visits.	1691

Schools for Mothers.

190 classes were held during the year 1940, and 1480 attendances were made by mothers.

The following table shows particulars of Notifications of Births received, which were notified by Doctors and Midwives:-

	Doctors and Parents.	Midwives.	Total.
No. of Births notified.....	186	1126	1312
Percentage.....	14	86	-
No. of Medical Aid Forms received...	-	344	344
No. of still-births notified.....	3	50	53

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia Notified in 1940.

	No. of Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Infirmary.	Private Nursing Home.	Result.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	6	4	2	-	-	5 recovered. 1 died.

Municipal Midwives Service.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1940 was 949, and the total number of confinements by all the Midwives in the town was 1176. The Service consists of a Supervisor and 12 Municipal Midwives. There are 8 Midwives in Private Practice.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1940 there was one notified case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The case was treated at home and the result was vision unimpaired.

Results of Sunlight Treatment, 1939. (Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic).

Disease.	Under Treatment 1st. Jan. 1940.	New Cases.	Discharged. Cured.	Discharged. Much Improved.	Ceased to Attend.	Under Treatment 31st. Dec. 1940.
Malnutrition.	3	-	-	-	3	-
Rickets.....	3	1	-	-	4	-
Debility.....	-	4	-	-	4	-
Others.....	10	3	-	3	8	2
	16	8	-	3	19	2

Welfare of the Blind.

In June 1933, Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and he examined 42 persons during 1940.

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